

**REMARKS**

The above referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Advisory Action mailed July 6, 2009. Claims 1-9, 12-15, 20-22, 24 and 25 are currently pending in this application with Claims 1 and 12 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 4, 12, 14, 20 and 21 have been amended, and Claims 16-19 have been cancelled. In view of the remarks to follow, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained her rejections from the previous Final Office Action mailed on January 21, 2009. In the Final Office Action, Claims 1-9, 12-22, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner stated that the Applicant should further clarify “ $x_t$ ” to overcome the rejection. Additionally, in the Final Office Action, Claims 1-9, 12-22, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,537,593 to Alchas in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,403,344 to Allen and U.S. Patent No. 5,733,266 to Gravlee, Jr.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained these rejections and noted:

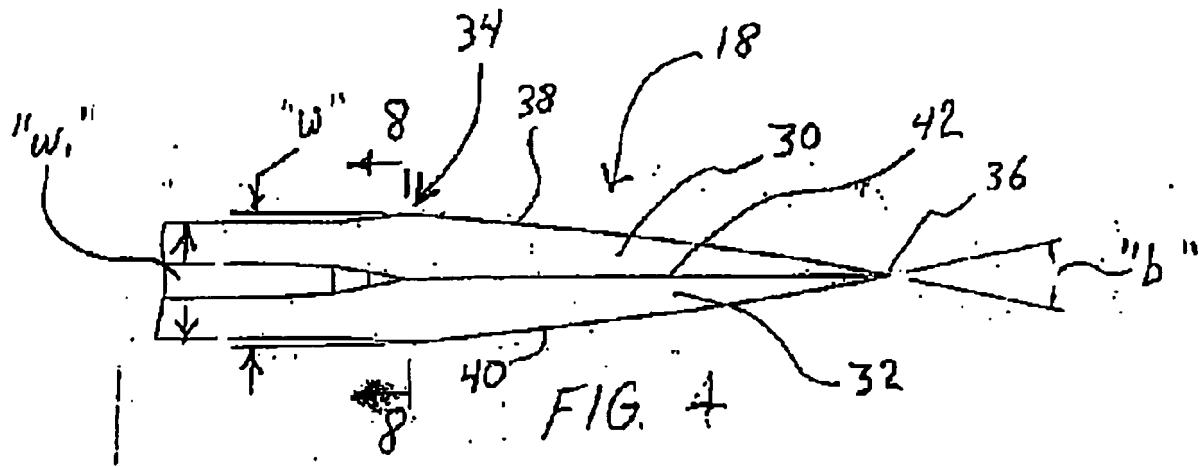
The applicant states the dimensions are described in the specification, and points to the specification, however the applicant was not acting as a lexicographer in the specification. The applicant must clearly define the dimension  $x_t$  in the claims. Alchas and Allen teaches the claimed invention, the dimension [sic] “ $x_t$ ” is not clearly defined in the claim. The applicant argues Gravless [sic] does not teach an angle of “about 2 to 10 degrees” [sic; “about 2 degrees to *about* 10 degrees” (emphasis added)], Gravlee teaches “about 15 degrees”, the examiner must give the broadest reasonable interpretation to the word “about”, “about 10 degrees” overlaps with “about 15 degrees” the applicant should remove the word about if the applicant wants 2-10 degrees. The applicant should clearly define the dimension “ $x_t$ ” to overcome the previous rejection.

Applicants would like to sincerely thank Examiner Ryckman for her suggestions in the Advisory Action.

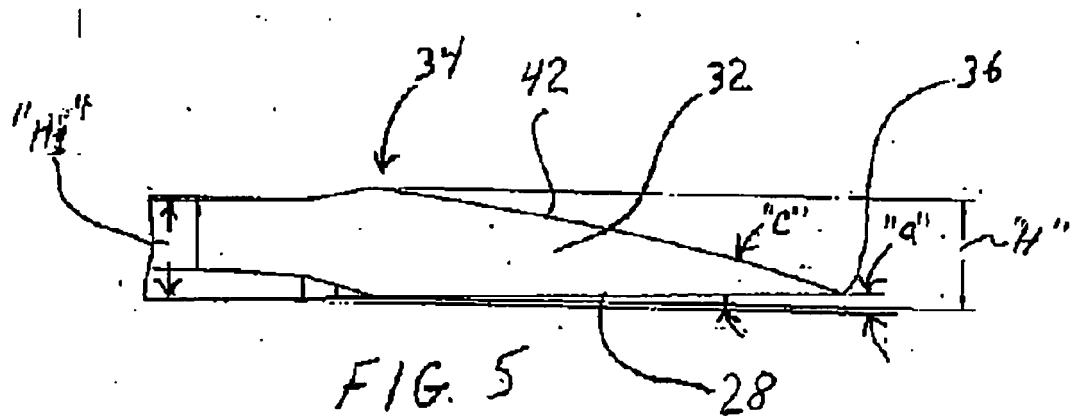
By the present amendment, Applicants have both clearly defined the x- and z-dimensions in the claims, and have changed "about 2° and about 10°" to "about 2° and 10°."

With particular reference to the defining of the x- and z-dimensions in the claims, Independent Claims 1 and 12 recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the z-dimension is defined as being transversely perpendicular to the central longitudinal y-axis and extending between a first cutting edge and a second cutting edge, and wherein the x-dimension is defined as being offset 90° from the z-dimension and extending between a third cutting edge and a surface portion between the first cutting edge and the second cutting edge."

Figures 4 and 5, reproduced below, help illustrated this claim language. As shown in FIG. 4, the z-dimension relates to the width "w" and extends between a first cutting edge 38 and a second cutting edge 40.



As shown in FIG. 5, the x-dimension relates to the height "H" and extends between a third cutting edge 42 and a surface portion 28 between the first cutting edge 38 and the second cutting edge 40 (FIG. 4 illustrates the cutting edges 38 and 40).



In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and in view of Applicants' remarks in the response to the Final Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are in proper format and are patentably distinct from the references of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at the telephone number listed below with any questions concerning this application.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) that may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s), to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Natof  
Reg. No.: 54,333  
Attorney for Applicants

*Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP*  
445 Broad Hollow Road - Suite 420  
Melville, New York 11747  
Tel.: (631) 501-5700  
Fax: (631) 501-3526

**Mailing Address:**  
Covidien  
60 Middletown Avenue  
North Haven, CT 06473